

JEFF FLAKE  
Arizona

SR-413 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 224-4521  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE ON AGING

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0305

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STATE OFFICES  
7200 EAST CAMELBACK ROAD  
SUITE 120  
PHOENIX, AZ 85018  
(602) 640-1881  
8840 NORTH ORACLE ROAD  
SUITE 100  
TUCSON, AZ 85704  
(520) 576-8033

Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I am writing to request a 30-day extension of the public comment period for the proposed rule revisions entitled "Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events" (Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2013-0572), commonly referred to as the Exceptional Events Rule, and the associated draft guidance document referred to as "Draft Guidance on the Preparation of Exceptional Events Demonstrations for Wildfire Events that May Influence Ozone Concentrations" (Docket No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2015-0229).

I am pleased that EPA has acknowledged the need to revisit the original rule promulgated in 2007 by addressing substantive concerns and administrative inefficiencies. EPA's emphasis on returning to the statutory requirements for designating an exceptional event is encouraging, as is the focus on "less burdensome measures" to reduce the amount of resources necessary to quantify that an exceptional event occurred.

Likewise, it is welcome news that EPA is hosting its public hearing in Phoenix, Arizona, where many stakeholders have been impacted by EPA's rigid application of the 2007 rule to Arizona's uniquely arid climate. I share the view of those stakeholders that EPA must instead find a reasonable approach that enables efficient and consistent administration of the Exceptional Events Rule. It is my hope that this effort will lead to that result.

In order to ensure the best product, I respectfully request that EPA extend its public comment period for 30-days. While I recognize that the agency intends to move expeditiously to complete the revision before states and tribes are required to submit recommendations for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards, I believe a modest extension could help better inform the final revisions. As it stands, the current schedule requires interested parties to digest the 200-plus page proposal and develop comments during the busy holiday season. The prudent course is to extend the deadline.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. As always I ask that it be handled in strict accordance with all agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines.

Sincerely,



JEFF FLAKE  
United States Senator